

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 261100Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4175

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3554

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, ICRC, PINS, PL, VS

SUBJ: POLDEL EFFORTS RE AMERICANS IN BAN ME THUOT

REF: SAIGON 2851

1. ON MARCH 26 MR. PAWEL LEWANDOWSKI, SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICER POLDEL, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, BRIEFED EMBOFF ON LATEST INFORMAL EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR FIJALKOWSKI TO ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS AND SECURITY OF AMERICANS TRAPPED IN BAN ME THUOT.

2. ON EVENING MARCH 24, PRG GENERAL TUAN TOLD FIJALKOWSKI THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE AMERICANS, HOWEVER, IF THEY WERE IN BAN ME THUOT, THEY WOULD BE TREATED PROPERLY. ALL OF THEM EXCEPT "MILITARY ADVISERS", WHO WOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT, WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE FOR SAIGON IF THEY SO DESIRED. TWICE DURING THIS CONVERSATION GEN TUAN MADE THE POINT THAT THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM BETWEEN THE PLES AND THE "PRG" BUT ONE BETWEEN "PRG" AND THE AMERICANS. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE HANDLED MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY IF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WERE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THEM.

3. LEWANDOWSKI SAID THAT THIS WAS AMB FIJALKOWSKI'S

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THIRD CONVERSATION WITH GEN TUAN ON THIS SUBJEC. THE FIRST

OCCURRED ON MARCH 14. FIJALKOWSKI HAS INSTRUCTED HIS LIAISON OFFICERS WHO MEET WITH THE "PRG" DAILY TO BRING UP THIS SUBJECT AT EACH MEETING. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE USE OF ICCS AIR TRANSPORTATION TO BRING THE AMERICANS TO SAIGON; HOWEVER, USE OF ICCS TRANSPORTATION DEPENDS ON THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF ALL DELEGATIONS.

4. POLDEL ASKED THAT THEIR UNILATERAL INFORMAL EFFORTS BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. LEWANDOWSKI NOTED THAT THE POLDEL HAD BEEN INFORMALLY ACTIVE IN EFFECTING THE RELEASE OF THE TWO NEW ZEALAND NUNS TRAPPED IN PHUOC LONG. HE NOTED THAT THEIR OFFICIAL POSITION ON ANSWER TO THE EMBASSY NOTE WOULD BY NECESSITY NOT BE NEARLY SO FORTHCOMING. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD KEEP THE US INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
LEHMANN

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